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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.lacounty.info>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

Reply To: (213) 738-4601

Fax: (213) 386-1297

March 14, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **NIMH GRANT AWARD**

I am very pleased to inform you that the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has awarded a \$4 million, three year grant that was developed by the Department of Mental Health in collaboration with senior researchers at UCLA and USC. The project is designed to evaluate the impact of the Mental Health Services Act on the transformation of the delivery system to one that is client centered and recovery oriented. The award results from the first of its kind partnership that the Department has initiated with NIMH to promote in-depth evaluations in Los Angeles County by joining together academic methodology with the practical needs of a large, complex and diverse public mental health system. The partnership and more importantly this project will build the necessary foundation for a better understanding of effective mental health delivery systems, services and supports, access and utilization, particularly for those that have to date been underserved whether the disparity is related to age, ethnicity, cultural affiliation or illness type.

I anticipate that there will be additional NIMH awards and will keep you apprised of our progress. I am confident that this innovative and exciting partnership will have a significant impact upon mental health care not only in Los Angeles County, but throughout the nation as the County is increasingly seen as the innovative leader in public mental health.

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c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Health Deputies

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"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"